

a collaboration of federal, state, regional and local agencies advancing geo-spatial technologies

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Mr. Scott A. Grams GIS Certification Institute 1460 Renaissance Drive, Suite 305 Park Ridge, IL 60068

Dear Mr. Grams, April 16, 2008

The CA GIS Council is pleased to offer its endorsement for the certification program of the GIS Certification Institute (GISCI). The California GIS council took action in Oct., 2007, to further study the benefits of certification and provide endorsement. On behalf of the California GIS Council, I am pleased to provide support for the advancement of this certification initiative.

The California GIS Council was formed to seek collaboration in the planning, implementation, and maintenance of GIS infrastructure throughout the state. Such an infrastructure requires a cadre of trained professionals. The Council recognizes geospatial sciences and geographic information systems (GIS) as a professional field of endeavor. It recognizes the values of professional certification for those practicing in this field. Certification assists in ensuring that data, analysis, and products produced meet the needs for which they were produced and follow standards of practice. The certification process and requirements assists not only in identifying individuals that are qualified to practice the profession but also serve as a guide for those entering the profession. The California GIS Council endorses certification for GIS professionals by an independent body. It encourages all member and participating organizations of the Council to recognize the importance and value of certification for their respective GIS staff.

The California GIS Council recognizes and endorses concepts embodied in the certification program of the GIS Certification Institute (GISCI). Those qualifying for certification under this program document their education, experience, and contributions in the field of GIS. Certified professionals adhere to a code of ethics related to practice of the GIS profession.

The California GIS Council believes strongly that the development of a comprehensive geospatial data infrastucture will depend on qualified and certified GIS professionals at all levels of government and the private sector. The certification program of GISCI provides a firm basis for identifying requirements for those practicing the profession. Under this program, certified professionals must continue in development of their skills in the GIS profession through training, experience, and contributions for recertification. This certification program and related programs provide a cadre of GIS professionals to develop and apply geospatial data to meet the needs of California.

Sincerely,

Michael Byrne California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development 400 R Street Sacramento, Ca 95811